

Message Text

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P R 072232Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 106806

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, XF

SUBJECT: DESALINATION FACT-FINDING MISSION

REF: (A) STATE 99706; (B) ABU DHABI 924; (C) DOHA 510;

(D) MANAMA 514; (E) ABU DHABI 888

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE CHARLES W. HOSTLER HAS SINCE INCEPTION HAD STRONG INTEREST IN DESALINATION FACT-FINDING MISSION AND WOULD LEAD MISSION IF TIMING CAN BE ARRANGED. HIS PRESENCE EUROPE FIRST WEEK JUNE APPEARS OFFER SUCH PROSPECT IF SAUDIS AMENABLE TO CHANGING TIMING OF MISSION SUGGESTED REF (A) TO BEGIN JIDDA JUNE 10. SUGGESTED NEW PROGRAM WOULD BE FOR MISSION ASSEMBLE PARIS JUNE 8 FOR BRIEFING, FLY JIDDA JUNE 9, BEGIN WORK JUNE 10 AND EXTEND THROUGH APPROXIMATELY JUNE 14 OR JUNE 15 IN SAUDI ARABIA. ACTION REQUESTED: JIDDA'S REACTION ON URGENT BASIS TO PROPOSED NEW TIMING AND ADVICE ON NUMBER DAYS DESIRABLE SPEND SAUDI ARABIA
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(INCLUDING EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED TIME SPLIT BETWEEN JIDDA AND

RIYADH).

2. FOR ABU DHABI AND DOHA: FROM REASONS CITED REF (B) AND (C) FOR RECOMMENDING MISSION NOT VISIT HOST COUNTRIES, BELIEVE POSTS MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD PURPOSE AND LONG RANGE IMPLICATIONS OF MISSION. IT IS NOT SHORT RANGE SALES MISSION BUT FACT-FINDING MISSION TO INVESTIGATE LONG

RANGE POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES FOR ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY AS BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS IN U.S. INDUSTRY ON WHETHER RE-ENTER DESALINATION MARKET. ASSUME POSTS HAVE NOW RECEIVED BOUDREAU REPORT POUCHED EARLIER, WHICH PROVIDES MORE DETAIL THIS SUBJECT. IN VIEW THESE CONSIDERATIONS, REQUEST POST REASSESS DESIRABILITY MISSION VISITING THESE COUNTRIES FOR SHORT STOPS OF PERHAPS ONE DAY QATAR AND TWO OR THREE DAYS UAE. EXACT TIMING WOULD DEPEND ON JIDDA RESPONSE TO ACTION REQUEST PARA 1. FOR ABU DHABI: SEE NO PROBLEM ROUTING MISSION DIRECTLY TO DUBAI IF EMBASSY FEELS THIS PREFERABLE; WOULD LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION HOW TO PROGRAM IT.

3. WILL ADVISE AND CABLE EXACT ITINERARY ON BASIS POSTS' RESPONSES.

4. FOR ABU DHABI: RE MAJOR WATER AND POWER PROJECT REPORTED REF (E), AT EMBASSY REQUEST WE HAVE NOTIFIED FOLLOWING FIRMS: COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, KAISER, RALPH M. PARSONS, FLUOR CORPORATION, FOSTER WHEELER, BECHTEL, WESTINGHOUSE. KISSINGER

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